

Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 26, 2010

Commissioners present were: Chairman Gary Ziemba, Vice Chairman Robert Erhardt, Secretary Elizabeth Montemagni, and Commissioners Nancy Fenton and Doug Girouard. Also present were Superintendent Stanley J. Walczak and Assistant Superintendent Richard Maciolek. In the audience was Robert Dzeidzic.

Chairman Ziemba called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to suspend the regular order of business to hear from the audience guest. Mr. Dzeidzic representing the American Legion Baseball program requested the use of Szot Park for open tryouts on one Saturday and Sunday in April. If Szot was not ready, then tryouts could be held at Rivers Park instead. Mr. Dzeidzic also would like to obtain the rosters of our youth teams to make them aware of the tryout dates for the 12-14 and 14-16 teams being formulated.

Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to return to the regular order of business at 7:18 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to approve the December 8, 2009 meeting minutes as written.

The Department received two thank you notes from the Kuzniar family for leaf removal assistance at Szetela Park and from the Chicopee Council on Aging for the providing of a band at one of their events.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Mr. Erhardt, to approve a request by Sharleen Alvarez and her Committee to hold 5k run/walk on Saturday, May 1, from Szot Park. The Commission however in granting permission indicated that certain conditions be met by the organizers in that there be police supervision, 1<sup>st</sup> aid and water stations, and committee supervision along the race/walk route.

Motion by Ms. Montemagni, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to approve a request by Sam R. Moriarty to have to have wedding pictures taken at Szot Park on May 15 between 1-2:00 p.m.

Superintendent Walczak reported that agreements between the City and Bargmann Hendrie and Archetype, Inc. are being drawn up for the Gateway Grant which will help change Szot Park to a “green” facility. The Department plans to meet in February with the architect to establish a master plan of action for the design phase.

A meeting among city department heads will be held on Wednesday, January 27 to discuss the proposed Bemis Pond Water Connection Improvement. The plan approved by the Commission calls for re-routing a new line from Palmer Ave. to Abbey Memorial Drive and concluding at the Fairview Cemetery area.

Assistant Maciolek reported that an issue between two city organizations at a basketball game was resolved with appropriate action. Mr. Maciolek reported that there are 6 or 7 games left in the Mens Basketball season and all teams owing fees will be paid by Friday, January 29. Commissioner Montemagni noted that several gym floors are not being swept on weekends which results in sand or water being dispersed on the basketball court. There were also some heat problems at gyms that seem to have been corrected.

The Commission has agreed to set up a meeting with Holyoke Catholic administrators to discuss their future athletic plans for use of the city’s park facilities in the coming years.

Superintendent Walczak indicated that he plans to close soccer fields at Ike Alpert and Sarah Jane Parks for this spring and summer to allow these fields the opportunity to be reseeded and fertilized for future use. The fields get no rest during the year and need time to recover their turf growth. A letter will be sent to the appropriate organizations indicating the closure of those facilities. Alternate sites are being considered at Garrity Grove, Nash or Fairview Parks.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to approve sending Mr. Thomas Trznadel, the Department’s Grounds Maintenance Craftsman to the N.E. Turfgrass Conference & Show in Providence, R.I. on March 2 and 3.

Superintendent Walczak reported that budget submittals for the Department’s Park Maintenance and Recreation Divisions have been submitted to the Mayor’s office. Also submitted were 10% cuts for each division and the impact that those cuts will have on those services.

A brief discussion was held on the DCR wishing to turn over the State Pool to the City of Chicopee in the future. Superintendent Walczak indicated that much work is needed to keep the city’s four outdoor pools in good shape. A request is being drafted to add new pool equipment and improvements at these facilities to the Mayor and City Council in February,

The Commission approved a change in dates for this year’s Fest of All from the usual 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend to the week previous which would be June 25-27, 2010.

A calendar of events was presented to the Commission which highlighted important dates for various park programs, trips and special events in 2010.

Superintendent Walczak indicated that new city councilor, Mr. Frank Laflamme who serves on the Recreation Sub-Committee would like to attend a future Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to review the department's current operation and needs.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Montemagni,  
Secretary